



PC.DEL/838/10
29 July 2010

ENGLISH only

EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 825
Vienna, 29 July 2010**

EU statement on the 12th round of the Geneva Talks

The EU reiterates its strong support for the Geneva discussions, the latest round of which took place on 27 July. Despite the persistence of difficulties and differences amongst participants, we consider the continuation of the Geneva discussions to be of utmost importance. They provide the only forum in which all sides are represented and three international actors – the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations – work in close cooperation for the security and stability of the region. We support the OSCE's active participation in the meetings, in which good use can be made of its extensive cross-dimensional experience. The EU is pleased to hear that 14 October 2010 has been set as the date for the next round of consultations and is looking forward to contribute to it.

The EU also attaches great value to the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms, as an important confidence building measure and a first result of the Geneva discussions. We are pleased to see that one of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms meets regularly in Gali and we call for a regular meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms in Ergneti as soon as possible.

The situation in Georgia, including its Abkhaz and South Ossetian regions, remains of concern to the EU. We reiterate our firm support for the security and

stability of Georgia, based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognized by international law. We call once again for full implementation of the 12 August and 8 September 2008 agreements, including the withdrawal of all military forces to the positions held prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

We remain convinced of the urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including a robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines. We reiterate our call to the Chairmanship-in-Office to intensify its efforts to bring the OSCE back to Georgia as soon as possible. We hope that in the spirit of the Corfu Process tangible progress can be made.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and AZERBAIJAN align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.